

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 9-12, 19-26, 28, and 29, and allowed claims 1-8, 13-18, 27, 30, and 32-36. Applicant canceled claims 31 and 37-40 in a previous communication. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present claims. Although Applicant does not agree with the rejection of claims 9-12, 19-26, 28, and 29, Applicant recognizes that the Examiner has indicated that all other pending claims are allowable. Consequently, Applicant has chosen to place the application in condition for allowance by amending claims 19, 23, and 28, and canceling rejected claims 9-12 and 29 without prejudice, in accordance with the Examiner Interview summarized below.

Applicant respectfully notes that the present amendments are identical to the proposed amendments submitted on August 16, 2006, which the Examiner indicated would overcome the rejection set forth in the Office Action. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-8, 13-28, 30, and 32-36 will remain pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejection and allowance of all pending claims.

Interview Summary

Applicant thanks the Examiner for his participation in a telephonic interview with the undersigned representative on August 16, 2006. In this interview, the claims of the present patent application and the recent Office Action were generally discussed. Particularly, during the interview, Applicant's representative and the Examiner discussed amendments to claims 19, 23, and 28, and cancellation of claims 9-12 and 29, to place the application in condition for allowance. As noted above, Applicant also submitted proposed amendments on August 16, 2006, that reflected the amendments discussed during the interview. The Examiner subsequently contacted the undersigned representative to indicate that these amendments would overcome the remaining rejections of the claims and, contingent upon the Examiner updating his search, would

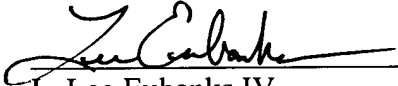
place the application in condition for allowance. By the present Response, claims 19, 23, and 28 have been amended in the discussed and agreed upon manner, and claims 9-12 and 29 have been canceled without prejudice. Consequently, claims 1-8, 13-28, 30, and 32-36 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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